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82 BANGKOK 44766

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EXCISE

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ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-06 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /088 W

-----------------018539 270056Z /12

R 241024Z SEP 800
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4596
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 44766
CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD
LO 12065: GDS 9/24/86 (WILKINSON, M. JAMES) OR-P
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PEPR, TH, KS
SUBJ: REACTION TO KIM DAE JUNG SENTENCE
1. (U) DEATH SENTENCE FOR KIM DAE JUNG HAS PRODUCED STRONG CONDEMNATION BY THAI STUDENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, AND SOME EDITORIAL COMMENT. BROAD SPECTRUM OF MP'S HAVE ALSO URGED THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT TO BE LESS SEVERE.
2. (U) OVER THE PAST WEEK SEVERAL STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE OBJECTED TO THE DEATH SENTENCE GIVEN TO KIM DAE JUNG. LARGEST TOOK PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 19 AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY WHEN 400-500 STUDENTS GATHERED TO DENOUNCE THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT AND DICTATORSHIP IN GENERAL. THE PROTEST ENDED WITH THE BURNING OF A LIFE-SIZE EFFIGY OF PRESIDENT CHUN DOO HWAN. POSTERS DREW A PARALLEL WITH THE BLOODY FIGHTING AT THAMMASAT IN OCTOBER 1976 WHEN MANY STUDENTS WERE KILLED. ON SEPTEMBER 22 ABOUT 120
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STUDENTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS STAGED A MOCK HANGING IN FRONT OF THE SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY.
3. (U) THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 18 CABLED PRESIDENT CHUN ASKING THAT KIM'S LIFE BE SPARED, AND ANOTHER GROUP OF 122 MP'S REPORTEDLY SENT A LETTER ASKING THAT HIS SENTENCE BE COMMUTED. INDIVIDUAL MP'S HAVE SPOKEN TO THE PRESS CONDEMNING THE SENTENCE.
4. (U) NEWSPAPERS HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO NEWS OF KIM'S TRIAL AND SENTENCE BUT EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN LIGHT. THAI LANGUAGE THAI RATH COMMENTED THAT SENTENCE IS TYPICAL OF DICTATORSHIPS WHICH ARE BY NATURE CRUEL AND VENGEFUL. ENGLISH LANGUAGE BANGKOK POST EDITORIAL SAID KIM IS NOT A THREAT TO THE SURVIVAL OF A NON-COMMUNIST SOUTH KOREA AND THAT THE
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY N. Teeple DATE 8/18/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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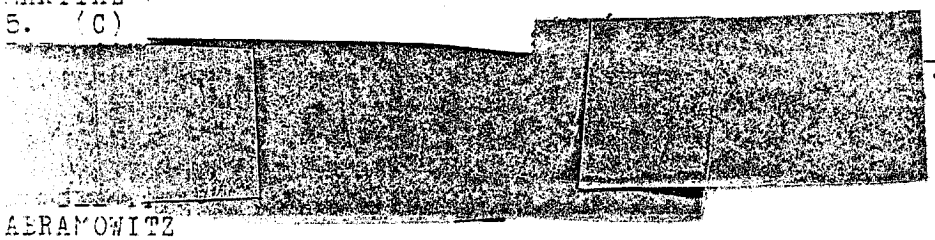
GOVERNMENT COULD BETTER IMPROVE THE COUNTRY BY LIFTING MARTIAL LAW

5. (C)



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